

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** An information distribution system for distributing information from an information provider to a user, comprising:

an information distribution device ~~for distributing that distributes~~ commodity information that serves as an advertisement for a commodity; and

a communication terminal ~~for receiving that receives~~ the commodity information, and outputting the received commodity information to a memory card,

the memory card being portable and mounted on said communication terminal, wherein the memory card is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the information provider, and includes:

a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information;

a judging unit ~~operable~~configured to judge whether the received commodity information was issued from the information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly; and

a writing unit ~~operable~~configured, only if the judgment is affirmative, to write the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user, and wherein

the commodity information includes a first provider ID identifying an information provider that issued the commodity information.

said receiving unit receives the commodity information that includes the first provider ID, said judging unit prestores a second provider ID identifying the specific information provider, extracts the first provider ID from the received commodity information, and judges whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider, by matching the first provider ID against the second provider ID, and

said writing unit writes the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area if the first and second provider IDs match.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The information distribution system according to Claim 1, wherein the memory card outputs the received commodity information to said communication

terminal only if the judgment is affirmative, and

said communication terminal receives the commodity information from the memory card and displays the received commodity information.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The information distribution system according to Claim 2, wherein said writing unit outputs write-indicate information to the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative, the write-indicate information indicating that the commodity information has been written,

said communication terminal transmits the received write-indicate information to said information distribution device,

said information distribution device receives the write-indicate information, generates an electronic ticket having a monetary value based on the received write-indicate information, and securely transmits the generated electronic ticket to the memory card via said communication terminal, and

said writing unit writes the received electronic ticket to the storage unit.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The information distribution system according to Claim 2, wherein said information distribution device transmits the commodity information that includes coupon information indicating a discount to be made on a commodity,

said writing unit writes the commodity information that includes the coupon information, and the memory card transmits, when the user purchases the commodity, the coupon information via said communication terminal,

said information distribution system further comprising a payment settlement device for receiving the coupon information from the memory card via said communication terminal and making a discount on the commodity based on the received coupon information.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The information distribution system according to Claim 2, wherein the memory card is provided to the user based on a lease in return for regular payments of a lease fee to the information provider,

said storage unit stores an electronic ticket having a monetary value, and

the memory card securely transmits, on a regular basis, an electronic ticket having a monetary value equivalent to the lease fee to said information distribution device via said communication terminal, and deducts the transmitted monetary value from the electronic ticket stored in said storage unit.

6. (Previously Presented) The information distribution system according to Claim 5, wherein the memory card reduces the lease fee on outputting the commodity information to said communication terminal for a purpose of displaying to the user, securely outputs an electronic ticket having a monetary value equivalent to a post-reduction lease fee to said communication terminal, and deducts the outputted monetary value from the electronic ticket stored in said storage unit.

7. (Currently Amended) A memory card for storing information transmitted from a specific information provider to a user, the memory card being portable and mounted on a communication terminal and provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, comprising:

- a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from the specific information provider;

- a receiving unit operable/configured to receive commodity information from an information distribution device via said communication terminal;

- a judging unit operable/configured to judge whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly; and

- a writing unit operable/configured, only if the judgment is affirmative, to write the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user, wherein

- the commodity information includes a first provider ID identifying an information provider that issued the commodity information,

- said receiving unit receives the commodity information that includes the first provider ID,

- said judging unit prestores a second provider ID identifying the specific information provider, extracts the first provider ID from the received commodity information, and judges

whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider, by matching the first provider ID against the second provider ID, and

said writing unit writes the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area if the first and second provider IDs match.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The memory card according to Claim 7, wherein

the memory card outputs the received commodity information to the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative, and

the communication terminal receives the commodity information from the memory card and displays the received commodity information.

9-10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Previously Presented)** The memory card according to Claim 8, wherein

said writing unit transmits write-indicate information to the information distribution device via the communication terminal only if the commodity information is judged to be issued from the specific information provider, the write-indicate information indicating that the commodity information has been written, and

said receiving unit securely receives, via the communication terminal, an electronic ticket generated by the information distribution device, the electronic ticket having a monetary value based on the write-indicate information.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The memory card according to Claim 8, wherein

the memory card is provided to the user on a lease in return for regular payments of a lease fee to the specific information provider,

said storage unit stores an electronic ticket having a monetary value, and

said receiving unit securely transmits, on a regular basis, an electronic ticket having a monetary value equivalent to the lease fee to the information distribution device via the communication terminal, and deducts the transmitted monetary value from the electronic ticket stored in the storage unit.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The memory card according to Claim 8, wherein

said receiving unit receives the commodity information that includes a priority rank assigned thereto,

the commodity information storage area stores commodity information that includes a priority rank assigned thereto,

said writing unit writes, when enough free space is not left in the commodity information storage area, the received commodity information by overwriting previously stored commodity information that is lowest in priority rank.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The memory card according to Claim 8, wherein

the commodity information storage area stores commodity information in association with a receiving time of the commodity information,

said writing unit writes, when enough free space is not left in the commodity information storage area, the received commodity information by overwriting previously stored commodity information having an earliest receiving time.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The memory card according to Claim 8, wherein

said receiving unit further receives another piece of commodity information issued from another specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly,

each piece of commodity information includes a priority rank assigned to a corresponding information provider, and

said writing unit writes, when enough free space is not left in the commodity information storage area, the other piece of commodity information by overwriting previously stored commodity information issued from a specific information provider having a lower priority rank.

16. **(Canceled)**

17. **(Currently Amended)** A memory card for storing information transmitted from a specific

information provider to a user, the memory card being portable and mounted on a communication terminal and provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, comprising:

a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from a specific information provider;

a first receiving unit ~~operable~~configured to receive provider information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal, the provider information showing an information provider that issued commodity information to be received;

a judging unit ~~operable~~configured to judge based on the received provider information, whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly;

a second receiving unit ~~operable~~configured to receive the commodity information from the information distribution device via the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative; and

a writing unit ~~operable~~configured to write the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area, wherein

the commodity information is associated with a first provider ID identifying an information provider that issued the commodity information,

the said first receiving unit receives the first provider ID as the provider information,

the said judging unit judges whether the received first provider ID matches a second provider ID that identifies the specific information provider, and

the said second receiving unit receives the commodity information if the first and second provider IDs match.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The memory card according to Claim 17, wherein

the memory card outputs, only if the judgment is affirmative and thus receives the commodity information, the received commodity information to the communication terminal, and the communication terminal receives and displays the commodity information.

19. **(Canceled)**

20. **(Previously Presented)** The memory card according to Claim 18, wherein

said judging unit prestores a public key of the specific information provider,
the information distribution device prestores a secret key of the specific information provider,

said first receiving unit generates a random number, and transmits the generated random number to the information distribution device via the communication terminal,

the information distribution device receives the random number, generates digital signature data from the random number using the secret key, and transmits the generated digital signature data to the memory card via the communication terminal,

said judging unit verifies, on the first receiving unit receiving the digital signature data, validity of the digital signature data using the public key to judge whether the commodity information to be received was issued from the specific information provider, and

said second receiving unit receives the commodity information if the verification is successful.

21. **(Canceled)**

22. **(Previously Presented)** The memory card according to Claim 18, wherein

said first receiving unit generates a random number and transmits the generated random number to the information distribution device via the communication terminal,

the information distribution device prestores a common key, receives the random number, encrypts the random number using the common key to generate ciphertext, and transmits the generated ciphertext to the memory card via the communication terminal,

said judging unit prestores a common key that is identical to the common key stored in the information distribution device, and, on said first receiving unit receiving the ciphertext, verifies using the common key, whether the received ciphertext is generated from the random number using the common key, and

said second receiving unit receives the commodity information if the ciphertext is judged to be valid.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A memory card for storing information transmitted from a specific information provider to a user, the memory card being portable and mounted on a communication terminal and provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, wherein

the memory card is provided to the user based on a lease in return for regular payments of a lease fee to the information provider,

the memory card comprising:

a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from the specific information provider, and a storage area for an electronic ticket having a monetary value;

a first transmitting-receiving unit operable/configured to receive a first provider ID identifying the specific information provider from the information distribution device via the communication terminal;

a first writing unit operable/configured to write the received first provider ID to the commodity information storage area;

a second transmitting-receiving unit operable/configured to securely transmit, on a regular basis, an electronic ticket having a monetary value equivalent to the lease fee to the information distribution device via the communication terminal;

a third transmitting-receiving unit operable/configured to receive from the information distribution device, commodity information that includes a second provider ID identifying an information provider of the commodity information;

a judging unit operable/configured to judge whether the second provider ID matches the first provider ID that identifies the specific information provider bearing the cost of the memory card at least partly;

a second writing unit operable/configured to write, only if the first and second provider IDs match, the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user;

a fourth transmitting-receiving unit operable/configured to reduce the lease fee by a

predetermined amount when the commodity information is written, and securely transmit to the information distribution device via the communication terminal, an electronic ticket having a monetary value equivalent to the post-reduction lease fee; and

a third writing unit operable/configured to deducts the transmitted monetary value from the electronic ticket stored in the storage unit.

25. (Currently Amended) A memory card for storing information distributed from a specific information provider to a user, the memory card being portable and mounted on a communication terminal and provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, comprising:

a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from the information provider, and a storage area for an electronic ticket having a monetary value;

a first transmitting-receiving unit operable/configured to receive a first provider ID identifying the specific information provider from the information distribution device via the communication terminal;

a first writing unit operable/configured to write the received first provider ID to the commodity information storage area;

a second transmitting-receiving unit operable/configured to receive from the information distribution device via the communication terminal, commodity information that includes a second provider ID identifying information provider that issued commodity information to be received;

a judging unit operable/configured to judge whether the second provider ID matches the first provider ID that identifies the specific information provider bearing the cost of the memory card at least partly;

a second writing unit operable/configured, only if the first and second provider IDs match, to receive the commodity information and write the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user;

a third transmitting-receiving unit operable/configured to transmit to the information distribution device via the communication terminal, write-indicate information indicating that the commodity information has been written, and securely receive an electronic ticket generated by the information distribution device for a monetary value based on the write-indicate information; and

a third writing unit ~~operable~~configured to write the received electronic ticket to the storage unit.

26. (Currently Amended) An information distribution device for distributing information issued from an information provider to a user, comprising:

a transmitting unit ~~operable~~configured to transmit, via a communication terminal, commodity information issued from the information provider to a memory card that is provided to the user, wherein

the information distribution device generates, when receiving write-indicated information from the memory card, an electronic ticket having a monetary value based on the received write-indicated information, the write-indicate information indicating that the memory card has written the commodity information, and

said transmitting unit securely transmits the electronic ticket to the memory card via the communication terminal.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The information distribution device according to Claim 26, wherein said transmitting unit transmits the commodity information that includes coupon information showing a discount to be made on a commodity of the information provider.

29. (Previously Presented) The information distribution device according to Claim 28, wherein the information distribution device receives discount-indicate information from a payment settlement device and generates an electronic ticket for a monetary value based on the received discount-indicate information, the discount-indicate information indicating that the payment settlement device has made the discount shown by the coupon information, and

said transmitting unit securely transmits the electronic ticket to the memory card via the communication terminal.

30-32. (Canceled)

33. **(Currently Amended)** A method used by a memory card for storing information distributed from a specific information provider, wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, and the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from the specific information provider, the method comprising:

a receiving step of receiving commodity information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal;

a judging step of judging whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly; and

a writing step of writing, only if the judgment is affirmative, the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user, wherein

the commodity information includes a first provider ID identifying an information provider that issued the commodity information,

said receiving step receives the commodity information that includes the first provider ID,

said judging step prestores a second provider ID identifying the specific information provider, extracts the first provider ID from the received commodity information, and judges whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider, by matching the first provider ID against the second provider ID, and

said writing step writes the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area if the first and second provider IDs match.

34. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable recording medium storing a program used by a memory card for storing information distributed from a specific information provider, wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, and the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from a specific information provider, the program causing the memory card to perform steps comprising:

a receiving step of receiving commodity information from an information distribution device

via the communication terminal;

a judging step of judging whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly; and

a writing step of writing, only if the judgment is affirmative, the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user, wherein

the commodity information includes a first provider ID identifying an information provider that issued the commodity information.

said receiving step receives the commodity information that includes the first provider ID,

said judging step prestores a second provider ID identifying the specific information provider, extracts the first provider ID from the received commodity information, and judges whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider, by matching the first provider ID against the second provider ID, and

said writing step writes the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area if the first and second provider IDs match.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method for a memory card used by a memory card for storing information distributed from an information provider, wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, and the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for storing commodity information issued from the specific information provider, the method comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving provider information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal, the provider information showing an information provider that issued commodity information to be received;

a judging step of judging, based on the received provider information, whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly;

a second receiving step of receiving the commodity information from the information distribution device via the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative; and

a writing step of writing the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area, wherein

the commodity information is associated with a first provider ID identifying an information provider that issued the commodity information,

said first receiving step receives the first provider ID as the provider information,

said judging step judges whether the received first provider ID matches a second provider ID that identifies the specific information provider, and

said second receiving step receives the commodity information if the first and second provider IDs match.

37. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium storing a program used by a memory card for storing information distributed from a specific information provider, wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, and the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for storing commodity information issued from a specific information provider, the program causing the memory card to perform steps comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving provider information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal, the provider information showing an information provider that issued commodity information to be received;

a judging step of judging, based on the received provider information, whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly;

a second receiving step of receiving the commodity information from the information distribution device via the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative; and

a writing step of writing the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area, wherein

the commodity information is associated with a first provider ID identifying an information

provider that issued the commodity information,

said first receiving step receives the first provider ID as the provider information,

said judging step judges whether the received first provider ID matches a second provider ID that identifies the specific information provider, and

said second receiving step receives the commodity information if the first and second provider IDs match.

38. **(New)** An information distribution system for distributing information from an information provider to a user, comprising:

an information distribution device that distributes commodity information that serves as an advertisement for a commodity; and

a communication terminal that receives the commodity information, and outputting the received commodity information to a memory card,

the memory card being portable and mounted on said communication terminal, wherein the memory card is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the information provider, and includes:

a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information;

a judging unit configured to judge whether the received commodity information was issued from the information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly; and

a writing unit configured, only if the judgment is affirmative, to write the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user, and wherein

said judging unit prestores a public key of the specific information provider,

the information distribution device prestores a secret key of the specific information provider, generates digital signature data from the commodity information using the secret key, and transmits the generated digital signature data,

said judging unit receives the digital signature data via the communication terminal, and verifies validity of the digital signature data using the public key to judge whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider, and

said writing unit writes the received commodity information to the commodity information

storage area if the verification is successful.

39. (New) A memory card for storing information transmitted from a specific information provider to a user, the memory card being portable and mounted on a communication terminal and provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, comprising:

- a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from the specific information provider;

- a receiving unit configured to receive commodity information from an information distribution device via said communication terminal;

- a judging unit configured to judge whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly; and

- a writing unit configured, only if the judgment is affirmative, to write the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user, wherein

 - said judging unit prestores a public key of the specific information provider,

 - the information distribution device prestores a secret key of the specific information provider, generates digital signature data from the commodity information using the secret key, and transmits the generated digital signature data,

 - said judging unit receives the digital signature data via the communication terminal, and verifies validity of the digital signature data using the public key to judge whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider, and

 - said writing unit writes the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area if the verification is successful.

40. (New) A memory card for storing information transmitted from a specific information provider to a user, the memory card being portable and mounted on a communication terminal and provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, comprising:

- a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from a specific information provider;

- a first receiving unit configured to receive provider information from an information

distribution device via the communication terminal, the provider information showing an information provider that issued commodity information to be received;

a judging unit configured to judge based on the received provider information, whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly;

a second receiving unit configured to receive the commodity information from the information distribution device via the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative; and

a writing unit configured to write the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area, wherein

an information provider device stores the commodity information issued from the specific information provider, a second public key of the information distribution device, and a first secret key of the information provider device, applies a digital signature algorithm to the second public key using the first secret key to generate digital signature data, and transmits the generated digital signature data and the second public key to the information distribution device,

the information distribution device prestores a second secret key of the information distribution device, receives the digital signature data and the second public key, and transmits the received digital signature data and second public key to the memory card via the communication terminal,

said judging unit prestores a first public key of the information provider device, receives the digital signature data and the second public key, and verifies validity of the digital signature data using the first public key, the digital signature data, and the second public key, and

said second receiving unit receives the commodity information if the verification is successful.

41. (New) A method used by a memory card for storing information distributed from a specific information provider, wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, and the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from the specific information provider, the method comprising:

a receiving step of receiving commodity information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal;

a judging step of judging whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly; and

a writing step of writing, only if the judgment is affirmative, the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user, wherein

the judging step prestores a public key of the specific information provider,

the information distribution device prestores a secret key of the specific information provider, generates digital signature data from the commodity information using the secret key, and transmits the generated digital signature data,

the judging step receives the digital signature data via the communication terminal, and verifies validity of the digital signature data using the public key to judge whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider, and

the writing step writes the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area if the verification is successful.

42. (New) A computer readable recording medium storing a program used by a memory card for storing information distributed from a specific information provider, wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, and the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for commodity information issued from a specific information provider, the program causing the memory card to perform steps comprising:

a receiving step of receiving commodity information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal;

a judging step of judging whether the received commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly; and

a writing step of writing, only if the judgment is affirmative, the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area for a purpose of displaying to the user, wherein

said judging step prestores a public key of the specific information provider,
the information distribution device prestores a secret key of the specific information provider, generates digital signature data from the commodity information using the secret key, and transmits the generated digital signature data,
said judging step receives the digital signature data via the communication terminal, and verifies validity of the digital signature data using the public key to judge whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider, and
said writing step writes the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area if the verification is successful.

43. (New) A method for a memory card used by a memory card for storing information distributed from an information provider, wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, and the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for storing commodity information issued from the specific information provider, the method comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving provider information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal, the provider information showing an information provider that issued commodity information to be received;

a judging step of judging, based on the received provider information, whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly;

a second receiving step of receiving the commodity information from the information distribution device via the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative; and

a writing step of writing the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area, wherein

an information provider device stores the commodity information issued from the specific information provider, a second public key of the information distribution device, and a first secret key of the information provider device, applies a digital signature algorithm to the second public key using the first secret key to generate digital signature data, and transmits the generated digital

signature data and the second public key to the information distribution device,

the information distribution device prestores a second secret key of the information distribution device, receives the digital signature data and the second public key, and transmits the received digital signature data and second public key to the memory card via the communication terminal,

said judging step prestores a first public key of the information provider device, receives the digital signature data and the second public key, and verifies validity of the digital signature data using the first public key, the digital signature data, and the second public key, and

said second receiving step receives the commodity information if the verification is successful.

44. (New) A computer readable recording medium storing a program used by a memory card for storing information distributed from a specific information provider, wherein the memory card is portable and mounted on a communication terminal, and is provided to the user at a cost borne at least partly by the specific information provider, and the memory card includes a storage unit having a storage area for storing commodity information issued from a specific information provider, the program causing the memory card to perform steps comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving provider information from an information distribution device via the communication terminal, the provider information showing an information provider that issued commodity information to be received;

a judging step of judging, based on the received provider information, whether the commodity information was issued from the specific information provider that bears the cost of the memory card at least partly;

a second receiving step of receiving the commodity information from the information distribution device via the communication terminal only if the judgment is affirmative; and

a writing step of writing the received commodity information to the commodity information storage area, wherein

an information provider device stores the commodity information issued from the specific information provider, a second public key of the information distribution device, and a first secret key of the information provider device, applies a digital signature algorithm to the

second public key using the first secret key to generate digital signature data, and transmits the generated digital signature data and the second public key to the information distribution device,

the information distribution device prestores a second secret key of the information distribution device, receives the digital signature data and the second public key, and transmits the received digital signature data and second public key to the memory card via the communication terminal,

said judging step prestores a first public key of the information provider device, receives the digital signature data and the second public key, and verifies validity of the digital signature data using the first public key, the digital signature data, and the second public key, and

said second receiving step receives the commodity information if the verification is successful.